

# BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

---

**MEETING:**  
**Barrington High School**  
**220 Lincoln Avenue**  
**Barrington, RI**

**Thursday, November 4, 2010 4:00 p.m.**

---

## Minutes

Attending: R. Flanders, P. Guida, C. Callahan, A. Beretta, A. Cano-Morales, A. Davis, B. Shimberg.

### Commissioner's Report

Race to the Top Update - The major objective over the past few months was to ensure that RIDE met all the required 90-day tasks specified by USDOE. These included the following:

- a. All 49 LEA Scopes of Work were submitted on October 22, 2010; reviewed by RIDE teams and feedback provided to LEAs on November 1, 2010; LEAs will resubmit the Scopes of Work by November 12, 2010, and receive final approval by November 17, 2010;
- b. Two LEAs asked to join Race to the Top as participating districts: Little Compton and Chariho. Little Compton was accepted as a participating district and Chariho is being considered and will complete a Scope of Work for submission to USDOE;
- c. All USDOE required deliverables will be completed by November 22, 2010;
- d. 20 RIDE staff members served as liaisons during the LEA Scope of Work process, providing technical support to each LEA in completing a Scope of Work;
- e. RIDE held 4 regional technical-assistance workshops; held individual sessions with charters, Providence, Central Falls, Met School, and DCYF; and held 5 webinars to answer questions and provide information to LEAs on the Scope of Work process;
- f. By the end of November, RIDE will have filled 4 Race to the Top positions;
- g. RIDE created public-information materials for LEAs and other stakeholders, improved information on our website regarding Race to the Top, and responded to more than 20 vendors seeking information regarding Race to the Top implementation in Rhode Island; and

- h. RIDE analyzed the number of Request for Proposals needed to support specific support systems and began the development of proposals for educator effectiveness, standards and curriculum, instructional-management systems, and human-capital systems.

Board of Regents Policy Statement on Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity - Commissioner Gist presented a DRAFT Board of Regents Policy Statement on Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity for Regents' review, discussion, and revision. She said that this policy is based on recent, well-publicized bullying incidents and suicides related to sexual orientation and it will also bring RIDE into compliance with U.S. Department of Education requirements. The policy will be discussed at the next BOR Work Session (November 18), and the Board will be asked to vote on it at the next BOR meeting, on December 2. Commissioner Gist also reminded the Board that RIDE is convening a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Anti-Bullying Forum on November 8, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Providence Career and Technical Academy, on Fricker Street, in Providence.

CTE Regulations Update - The Office of Multiple Pathways continues to work on the development of Career and Technical Education regulations and is currently engaged in collecting regulatory and statutory language from other states and scheduling regional outreach sessions with superintendents, building principals, and center directors to discuss the pending changes to the CTE regulations and their role in enabling the creation of multiple pathways. Commissioner Gist told the Regents that, despite delays resulting from the Department's intense focus on Race To The Top, the High-School Regulations, and collecting CTE student and program performance data, RIDE is working hard to stick with the proposed schedule, which will have new regulations promulgated by mid-spring.

Lowest-Achieving Schools -

Commissioner Gist reported that at Central Falls High School, teacher evaluations continue, despite an abundance of non-instructional issues that have absorbed great amounts of the time of the leadership team, and that teacher-absenteeism rates have improved slightly. Visits and observations from members of the Office of Transformation and other RIDE staff do not reveal that students are out of control, demonstrating threatening behavior, or acting in an overly aggressive manner toward one another or toward staff. Commissioner Gist invited members of the Board of Regents to visit the school to get a sense of how the school operates day-to-day. She also reported that in Providence, progress on school-reform planning is solid; the RIDE Transformation Office is conducting visits to each of the four Providence lowest-achieving schools, and leadership from each of the 4 PLA schools took a recent trip to California to visit successful campuses using labor-management agreements. Further exploration of the EMO labor-management reciprocal agreement continues. Department staff wants to ensure that the document is legally sufficient as a restart model,

that it meets the criteria set forth in the *Protocol for Interventions* document, and that it assists in creating the conditions for sustainable transformation of each of the currently identified Tier I schools.

### Public Remarks

Kirstan Casale addressed the Regents on the issue of her daughter not being allowed to use her accommodations (calculator, reader, and scribe) to take the NECAP exams, as per her IEP.

Dina Davis spoke on behalf of the performance-arts program at Barrington High School. She told the Regents that the program would be presenting *The Wizard of Oz* at the Nayatt School. The production is a joint community-school project.

Mary Ryan asked that the Board of Regents reconsider accepting any Race to the Top dollars because most of the funding would be used to fund outside consultants and therefore is a “huge” waste of money. Additionally, Ms. Ryan requested that the Board of Regents meetings be held later in the evening to give more parents the opportunity to attend and that speakers should not be held to a three-minute time limit.

### Chairman’s Remarks

Recognition of Dana Ramey - Chairman Flanders recognized Dana Ramey, the R.I. 2010 Teacher of the Year, and presented him with a Regent certificate.

Commissioner’s Evaluation Agreement - Chairman Flanders distributed copies of the final Commissioner’s Evaluation Agreement that has been adopted by the Board of Regents. He noted the work of the Broad Foundation and of Regent Shimberg in bringing the document forward. The Chairman then reviewed the three aspects of the Commissioner’s work that the evaluation agreement will focus on: 1) Functional Responsibilities, which include department management, leadership, relationship to the Board, and advocacy; 2) Progress on the benchmarks as outlined in the strategic plan, with specific timeframes; and 3) Student Performance.

Legal Support for Board - The Chairman reviewed the steps for replacing Howard Haronian, the Board’s Legal Counsel, and told the group that the paperwork has been sent to State Purchasing for approval.

Proclamation for Governor - Chairman Flanders noted the election of the new state officeholders, General Assembly members, and school-committee members, and he wished the incoming and outgoing officials good luck in their new endeavors. He reviewed Governor Carcieri’s education accomplishments – the NECAP assessments, the proficiency-based graduation requirements, the improvements in STEM education, and the Race to the Top grant – and asked the Regents to lend their support to a proclamation that would be presented to the Governor at the next K-16 meeting. The proclamation was read and the Board affirmed its support.

Sharon Osborne Retirement - Chairman Flanders announced that the Board’s executive, Sharon Osborne, would be retiring, effective January 14, 2011.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting and Executive Session of October 7, 2010; October 19, 2010 Work Session on High School Graduation Requirements, October 21, 2010 Work Session and October 25, 2010 Work Session on High School Graduation Requirements and Executive Session

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Board of Regents Meeting and Executive Session of October 7, 2010; October 19, 2010 Work Session on High School Graduation Requirements, October 21, 2010 Work Session and October 25, 2010 Work Session on High School Graduation Requirements and Executive Session.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

APPROVAL ITEMS

Approval of FY 2011 Revised Budget and FY 2012 Budget

Commissioner Gist told the Regents that they are being asked at this meeting to approve the FY 2012 and FY 2011 revised budgets, as presented. She said that the proposed budget request supports the Department's highest priorities while recognizing the state's looming budget deficits. The FY 2012 state budget is \$901.6 million, which is a 5.3% or \$45M increase above the FY 2011 enacted budget. It includes increases for: the state's share of teacher retirement, which is driven by an actuarial calculation that is outside the Department's control; housing aid, due to the increased minimum state-share ratio enacted last session; \$18M of restored general revenues to replace expiring federal ARRA funding; and Year 1 of the funding formula, including the categorical funds that accompany the formula. Also included in this budget are reductions totaling \$2.6M that were discussed at the last two Regents meetings. The FY 2011 revised budget request contains \$2.4M in savings, mostly related to housing aid. Commissioner Gist noted that, in addition to the state budget, the Department is submitting a \$10.5M capital request for LEA technology infrastructure and that the Department is aggressively seeking private funding to support innovation and bold actions in the areas of multiple pathways and deeper professional development. Carolyn Dias then gave the group an in-depth overview of the budget submission, including an overview of the 2012 federal funds, a summary of the FY2012 General Revenue, the FY 2012 budget summary, the FY 2012 funding-formula general-revenue adjustments, and a, FY 2011 revised budget summary. Following Ms. Dias's presentation, Commissioner Gist assured the Regents that this budget proposal will allow the Regents and Department to continue moving forward with the implementation of the funding formula and the reforms that will close achievement gaps and transform Rhode Island's public-education system.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the FY 2011 Revised Budget and the FY 2012 Budget, as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

### Approval of Providence School Construction Projects

The Commissioner told the group that the Providence School Construction projects being voted on tonight were discussed at the Board of Regents work session on October 21, 2010. Like other school districts, Providence has submitted to RIDE a 5-year plan for asset protection. The projects on the agenda for approval are just those projects that are supported by two ARRA bond programs: the Qualified Zone Academy Bond and the Qualified School Construction Bond. The Qualified Zone Academy Bond project allows for the renovation and expansion of the Mt. Pleasant High School science wing and other building-systems improvements, as well as a district wide lighting upgrade. The Qualified School Construction Bond will allow the district to invest \$12.3M for district wide "Safe, Warm, and Dry" renovations necessary to meet code compliance and to address life-safety issues. The total cost for both projects is \$21.9M, of which \$17.2M is the state share.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves the Providence Necessity of School Construction Projects totaling \$21,949,314, as Attached.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

### Approval of English Language Competency

Commissioner Gist reminded the Regents that at their last two work sessions they had discussed the need to establish requirements to ensure that all educators employed in the public schools of Rhode Island are competent in the English language. RIDE staff member Phyllis Lynch reviewed the DRAFT Policy Statement being presented for consideration.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approves, for the Purpose of Public Comment, the Board of Regents Regulation, Teacher Competency in English.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Discussion of Language Changes to High School Graduation Requirements

Commissioner Gist told the members of the Board that this week she had a great work session with staff on the high-school graduation requirements and they had made a lot of progress in working through all of the ramifications of any changes to the regulations that might be brought forward for consideration by the Regents. She then introduced RIDE staff member Andrea Castañeda to present a document outlining a rationale for proposed changes to the secondary-regulation design elements for consideration by the Regents. The document outlines the characteristics of the partially proficient standard on NECAP as a graduation requirement, the 2012 deadline for LEAs to secure approval of their diploma system, and the elimination of student-level consequences for systems-level issues. The Regents focused their

discussion on page 2 of the document, the chart showing Diploma System Status and Student Proficiency and Growth. The Regents asked for further details regarding the impact of the suggested revisions on ELL and special-education students as well as for details on how RIDE will continue to incentivize LEAs to continue to improve their diploma systems.

#### Discussion of Charter School Proposal

The Commissioner reported that the Office of Transformation is working through the details of every component of charter authorization – covering each aspect of charter-school performance management – from application through renewal and/or revocation. A timeline has been established for the completion of each component, and a full update will be provided on the 9<sup>th</sup> at a special work session with the Board. Additionally, individual school profiles (with each performance target) that will be used in assessing each school are currently under development, and face-to-face meetings are planned for each school.

Adjournment: With unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.